(C O P Y)

November 18, 1927

S
Insect Control

The Forester,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The insect situation in this District continues to improve on all of the Forests with the exception of the Prescott, where a serious infestation of D. barberi has occurred with which you are thoroughly familiar from previous correspondence. No control work is contemplated for the coming year with the exception of the Prescott where such work has already been inaugurated. The situation on the several Forests is given in the following summarized reports for the individual forests of the District:

APACHE:

Condition normal. Ips infestation in the pinon type less in evidence than last year.

CARSON:

The spruce bud worm infestation less serious than in 1926. The cone weevil area on the east side of the Amarillo Division remains unchanged. The attack of tent caterpillars on the aspens along the west side of El Rito Creek is about the same as last year and the year before, except that it has continued further up the mountain. Each year the aspens put out new leaves and although they are weakened the damage does not seem to be serious. Only normal losses sustained on the remainder of the Forest.

COCONINO:

Only the normal losses from various species of dendroctonus that are characteristic of western yellow pine stands are reported. Ips damage on Observatory Mesa west of Flagstaff, which was considered rather serious last fall, has apparently subsided.

CORONADO:

Some damage to white and apache pine reproduction by defoliator in the head of Madera Canyon. Damage not considered serious. Situation as to rest of Forest normal.

CROOK:

Condition on the Forest as a whole is normal. One isolated area of pine reproduction near Arcadia Ranger Station has suffered some damage from Ips, due to clearing right of way for road construction. Situation not serious and can be corrected by more prompt disposal of slash.

DATIL:

The Supervisor reports that conditions on the Datil appear to be back to normal. Only the characteristic scattered infestations by bark beetles are noted. This is a marked improvement over 1925, when we greatly feared there was danger of a serious outbreak on this Forest.

GILA:

Conditions normal.

LINCOLN:

This Forest was originally confronted with three distinct problems. This applies particularly to the year 1925, and to some extent 1926:

1. D. barberi epidemic in mature timber on the Capitan Mountain district.
2. Ips infestation in pinon confined largely to the lower elevations on the Sacramento Mountain District.
3. The Ellopia defoliation in the fir type on the Sacramento Division.
4. D. engelmanni attack on defoliated or partially defoliated spruce, following the Ellopia attack on the Sacramento Division.

The Supervisor reports that examinations during the past season indicate that with the exception of a slightly further loss from D. engelmanni there is almost a total subsidence of these attacks and apparently the attack from D. engelmanni is rapidly subsiding so that conditions on this Forest are again almost back to normal.

MANZANO:

Conditions on the Manzano can best be described by quoting the Supervisor's report, which follows:

"1. Taking the Forest as a whole, it is not felt that the insect problem is above normal. However, there are a few small areas which we have felt should be carefully watched. These are as follows:

"East slope of Sandia Mountains: A number of yellow pines have died this last year, but we found on examination that their death was due to mistletoe.

"Tajique area: Ranger Laney reports that this infestation has slowed up very materially. Only twelve trees were counted that died from insects. Mistletoe here as on other parts of the Manzano Mountains, is causing the greatest loss. Black jacks are affected most, especially the large pole class. He estimates a mortality of 2% by volume this past year.

"Chupadera Division: The Ips infestation which was so heavy last year has abated greatly and only the north end of this district is there evidence of their work. Two or three pinons in a group scattered over an area of about 1,000 acres have died this year. Drouth, no doubt, was the determining factor of this infestation. Conditions on this area can be considered as being normal.

"Mt.Taylor: Tent caterpillars were still rather severe on the higher slopes in the aspens again this year, but the attack was not as serious as in previous years. The cone beetle in the yellow pine killed a good many cones this year. It is estimated that from 15% to 20% loss occurred from this cause, however the seed crop was very abundant.

"Mt.Sedgwick: Some damage from the cone beetle but not serious. Mistletoe on this area is taking the largest toll.

"Wingate Division: No infestation is in evidence. The Ips have disappeared from the woodland areas almost entirely. In the vicinity of Ramah on the mountain, a small number of yellow pines have died. This is due to mistletoe rather than bugs."

PRESCOTT:

In following up the Ips infestation on this Forest during the past season it was learned that while this epidemic was rapidly subsiding, a serious condition existed from an infestation of D. barberi. You are thoroughly familiar with these conditions, as are brought out in Ranger McNelty's report of October, and Dr. Edmonston's report of September 29, copies of which are in your files. Control work has already been started as you know, and we hope will be continued until this infestation is stopped.

SANTA FE:

The Supervisor reports that there is very little change in the situation in respect to the spruce bud worm. If anything there is apparently a slight change for the better, although on at least one of the sale areas on the Pecos Division, the damage to the remaining stand after cutting was rather severe. Some damage by a defoliator in the aspen type is also reported. This, however, is not considered serious. Damage by other insects is normal.

SITGREAVES

Situation normal.

TONTO:

Situation normal.

TUSAYAN:

Situation normal.

No mention is made in the reports from the Forests of the tip moth damage that has been previously referred to in our reports. This is something we have with us throughout the yellow pine type. In places it is quite severe and in others of minor importance. As a whole, however, this damage is quite severe, since it falls on the reproduction class greatly retarding growth and resulting in a poor quality of timber due to the killing of the terminal buds and the many-branched characteristics resulting. However, tip moth damage does not result in death to reproduction and probably no practical control measures could be put into effect.

The situation throughout the District, with the exception of the Prescott Forest, is much improved over the year 1925, and the rate of improvement noted in 1926, has been continued thru the past year.

The field personnel is alive to the insect situation and is much better informed than they were prior tothe somewhat serious conditions in 1925. With continued rainfall and favorable moisture conditions we look for continued improvement in the insect situation throughout the District. There, apparently, is a direct relation between growth conditions and insect attacks.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W.POOLER, District Forest,

By Acting.